

Jennifer Tobin
3514 Thaxton Avenue SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

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February 24, 2000

Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5360 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No: 98P-1194

Dear Commissioner Henney:

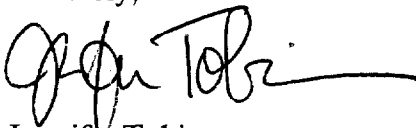
I recently became aware of the existence of a growth hormone called rBGH which is used to increase milk production in dairy cows. From what I understand, this hormone is currently available to dairy farmers in the US despite studies which have shown it to be harmful to the cows on which it's used and of dubious safety for humans ingesting milk from those cows.

Has the FDA conducted sufficient research to assure the public *without a doubt* that this growth hormone is safe? Research done in Canada and Europe has moved those governments to ban the use of rBGH in order to protect consumers from possible harmful effects. Indeed, it seems that thyroid cysts in male rats in those studies would be reason enough to put a hold on this substance. The hormone also causes an increase in udder infections, which leads to farmers using more antibiotics. As you're undoubtedly aware, more antibiotics in milk is a problem in and of itself; it leads to decreased effectiveness of antibiotics for humans because they've been ingesting antibiotics daily in their milk consumption.

I urge you to ban the use of this drug in the US. I don't do drugs, and I don't want the cows whose milk I drink to do any drugs either. *Especially* drugs which haven't been proven safe.

Thank you for considering the health and safety of the public in this matter. I would appreciate hearing back from you as to your plans for rBGH.

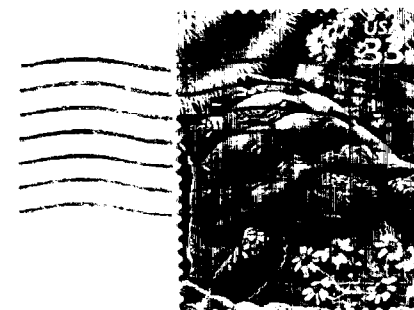
Sincerely,


Jennifer Tobin

98P-1194

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